CHURCH NEWS

FROM THE NORTHERN COUNTRIES

Edited by
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Northern Ecumenical Conference at Båstad.

From May 20 - 23 the Northern Ecumenical Institute at Sigtuna arranged a conference on "The Gospel in the World of To-day". It had gathered 70 participants from the Lutheran national churches and the free churches in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Professor K.E. Skydsgaard, Copenhagen, the president of the Board of the Institute, was the leader of the conference, which was held at Båstad in Southern Sweden. Among the speakers were the Bishops Manfred Björkquist and Anders Nygren, Mrs. Birgit Lange-Olivecrona, well known as novel-writer, Rev. Olov Hartman and Ingmar Stoltz from Sweden, Rev. Haldor Hald, Denmark, Dean Jaakko Haavio, Finland, Rev. Jakob Jónsson, Iceland, and Mr. Per Voksø, Norway. The subjects for discussion were "Does modern man expect anything from the Church?", "Breach and solidarity", "The Gospel in corporative society", "What is wrong in our Church services?", "How do we preach the joyful message?". Reports on new evangelistic initiatives were presented to the conference.

Northern Conference on Christian Responsibility in the Community.

"The Society for Christian Culture" in Finland has taken the initiative in arranging for a Northern conference dealing with the responsibility of a Christian in the life of the community. The conference will take place in Helsinki (Helsingfors), Finland, from June 14 - 18 and will deal with a number of subjects connected with the main theme, including the special responsibility of the home and Christian activity in politics. Speakers from the different Northern countries will be invited to address the conference.

Northern Church Music Conference in Helsinki.

Every third year since 1933 there has been a Northern conference for church musicians. The 7th in this series will take place in Helsinki (Helsingfors) from June 1 - 3 in connection with the 50 years' anniversary of the Finnish Office Association. At the conference the question of founding a Northern Council of Church Musicians will be discussed, among other things. The Archbishop Salomies and Bishop Gulin, Tampere (Tammerfors), will speak at church services in connection with the conference.

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Northern I.C.C.C. Conference in Hillerød.

From August 1 - 7 the Northern Evangelical Council, established two years ago in Jönköping, Sweden, and working in collaboration with the International Council of Christian Churches, will meet for a Northern conference in Hillerød, Denmark. The main subject at the conference will be the "Authority of the Bible in Modern Time" and in this connection problems regarding preaching, the young people, foreign mission, science, and the anti-Christian tendencies in our time will be discussed.

DENMARK

European Missionary Conference Discusses Common Problems.

At the end of April representatives of a number of European missionary societies were assembled at Nyborg Strand in Denmark in order to discuss common problems. The conference was convened by the Danish Missionary Council whose members felt that a number of current problems make it natural for the European missionary societies to meet for mutual deliberations once or several times in the intervals between the conferences of the International Missionary Council.

The discussions at the meeting were centred around three main problems, "The task and the position of foreign mission" in the light of the Bible, introduced by the Director of the Breklum Mission, Rev. W. Ahrends; practical questions and questions of organization, including the relationship between the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council; and, finally, "The situation of foreign mission to-day and its possibilities", introduced by the Secretary of the International Missionary Council, R.K. Orchard.

It was evident from the discussion on the relationship between the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council that a number of European missionary societies are doubtful about the justification of an integration of the two organizations, at the present moment at least. For one thing, it is felt that such an integration will create difficulties in the work of missionary societies, working independently of the Church; and, for another, more people are sceptical about the possibilities of the World Council of Churches as an instrument of collaboration rather than about those of the International Missionary Council.

However, strong voices in the opposite direction were also heard at the conference. Thus, the debate on this matter was introduced by the President of the Dutch Missionary Society, S.C. Count von Randwijck who was a warm advocater of integration, both for theological and for practical reasons. He emphasized the close connection between Church and Foreign Mission and mentioned a number of points at which the cooperation between the two organizations has developed into a beginning integration as a completely natural consequence of their activities. In his opinion a rejection of the proposed integration would mean either a mutual competition or the destruction of the International Missionary Council.

In an article in the April issue of the Northern ecumenical periodical "Kristen Gemenskap" (Christian Unity), the President of the Danish Missionary Council, Bishop Halfdan Høgsbro, who delivered the opening address at the meeting, expresses exactly the same views on this matter as his Dutch colleague.

European Church Meeting at "Liselund".

From May 27 - 31 representatives of a number of European Churches in both East and West will meet at "Liselund", near Slagelse. The following three main subjects will be discussed at the conference, "The One Gospel in a Disunited Europe", "Our Differences as Church in Europe" and "Our Responsibility Towards One Another".

The initiative in inviting to this conference comes from the group which arranged for the so-called Bruxelles Conference, and a recently published memorial concerning the meeting is signed by Dr. Egbert Emmen, Holland, and Dr. Wilm, Bielefeld, Germany.

It says in this memorial that the background for the meeting is the forthcoming re-organization of Europe and the many problems and tasks common to the European Churches. The idea is not to work for a European Church union, but to meet as Churches with differing confessions, but, nevertheless, all of them feeling responsible towards the same Lord. It may be possible that some day a European Church council will become a reality, but for the time being the thought is only, to point out the spiritual responsibility of the Reformation Churches towards a number of very real practical problems made topical by developments in Europe.

At the time of writing the final list of participants is not yet available, but it is known that neither the Evangelical Church Council in Germany nor the Lutheran Churches in the Northern countries intend to send delegates. The Danish Lutheran National Church will, however, send observers to the meeting. Among the representatives of the Eastern European Churches will be Professor Hromadka, Prague; Archbishop Turs, Riga; Church President Michelis, Warsaw; and from Hungary, Bishop Ordass and Professor Vetö.

Parliamentary Candidates Are Asked about the Act Concerning Induced Abortion.

Prior to the elections to the Danish Parliament on May 14 a number of parliamentary candidates all over the country were asked about their position to the Abortion Act passed last year legalizing induced abortion on partly social grounds.

The President of the pietistically inclined movement "Indre Mission" (Home Mission), Rev. Christian Bartholdy, in its periodical had appealed to members of the movement to put the following question to the parliamentary candidates, "Will you agree to work for an amendment of the present Act so that the wider access to induced abortion resulting from it may be repealed?"

Shortly after, the "Unge Hjem's" (Young Homes) movement, which last year collected 35,000 signatures to a protest against the passing of the new Bill, issued a similar appeal and these appeals have been widely followed so that the parliamentary candidates time after time have been questioned about their personal position towards this much disputed Act.

Extensive Church Representation in the Danish Television Programmes.

The Danish television corporation, controlled by the State, has had an extensive ecclesiastical representation in recent programmes which is so much the more encouraging as the normal length of broadcasting time is only 1 1/2 to 2 hours daily. On Good Friday a series of broadcasts, drawn up by the Rev. E. Aalbæk Jensen, were introduced telling about the church services and church celebrations. The first broadcast was an eminent instruction about confirmation and its origin, the next told about the eucharist and its meaning, illustrated by transmissions from a Communion service in the Cathedral of Roskilde. On Good Friday a film from Palestine was also shown depicting the famous places of events in the Passion story. Recently a very special and impressive church service was transmitted in the Danish television, i.e. a service for deaf people. The sermon was, of course, given in finger language, just as the hymn singing, the Lord's Prayer, and the Creed, were also illustrated by very expressive movements of the hands.

This summer the Danish National Broadcasting Service will bring a number of broadcasts entitled "Ecclesiastic Letter-Box" in which Dean N.J. Rald will answer questions from the listeners on religious problems. Such an ecclesiastic "letter-box" has been conducted several times before and has been one of the most popular items on the programmes.

Norwegian Crown Prince Lays Corner-Stone for Church in Copenhagen.

At a ceremony in Copenhagen on Sunday May 12 the Norwegian Crown Prince Olav laid the corner-stone for King Håkon's Church in commemoration of the Norwegian King's golden jubilee last year on which occasion 2,5 million crowns were collected in Denmark and Norway for the erection of the church. The original plan was that King Håkon in person should lay the corner-stone, but a reduced ability of movement caused by a fall made this arrangement impossible.

The Chairman of the Norwegian Committee, Dr. C. Bonnevie-Svendsen, former Cabinet Member, and Bishop Smemo, Oslo, spoke at the function and the Crown Prince then executed the solemn ceremony.

King Håkon's Church is to be the meeting place of Norwegian seamen in Copenhagen as well as of Norwegian residents of the city.

Protest Against Chief Rabbi Being Present at Consecration of Lutheran Bishop.

As has been the case at former consecrations of bishops the Chief Rabbi in Denmark, Dr. Marcus Melchior, was invited to be present at the consecration of Bishop Dons Christensen in the Cathedral of Copenhagen. This has given rise to a very sharp protest by the Professor of Divinity, Bent Noack, Copenhagen, in "Præsteforeningens Blad". In this article he emphasizes that co-operation under any form whatever between the Mosaic community and the Christian Church is impossible in matters of faith, and, as the consecration of a bishop concerns a servant in the Christian Church, one cannot possibly invite a representative of a non-Christian religion to attend the service. When doing it anyway, the only reason must be a deep contempt of both the community invited and of one's own Lutheran National Church.

At the consecration of another bishop some years ago, the Chief Rabbi took part in the opening procession of clergymen, but on account of the very strong protests issuing from the event, the Bishops decided in the future not to invite him to join the procession, but only to be present at the ceremony on the same footing as the other guests invited.

Referring to the new protest, Dr. Melchior himself states that in his opinion the mutual representation on special occasions is a natural expression of the good relationship between the Jewish congregation and the Danish Lutheran National Church.

Church Donations to be Tax-Free on Certain Conditions.

It has been the rule in Denmark until now that only the church taxes proper or the assessed church contributions (in the case of members of the Free Churches) might be deducted on the income tax return. Attempts have been made several times by various quarters to obtain exemption from taxation on certain other donations towards ecclesiastical or humanitarian projects, but to no avail.

A new provision has now been passed, however, stipulating that fixed annual contributions towards specified projects, such as the erection of a church or similar activities, either in the form of a certain amount of money annually or as a fixed percentage of the taxable income, are to be tax-free in future when a contractual agreement running for at least ten years has been signed.

The new provision has been greeted with acclamation by Church quarters.

News in Brief.

- Bishop Gudmund Schiöler, Roskilde, has been elected President of the Danish Inter-Church Aid Organization in succession to the Rev. L.P. Fabricius.

- "Laegmandsbevaegelsen for Ydre Mission i Danmark" (The Laymen's Movement in Denmark for Foreign Mission) has elected the teacher, Martin Salmonsen, Hjortshøj, President of the Movement in succession to his brother, Blom Salmonsen, school inspector, Aarhus.

- One of the prominent leaders of the Christian Youth Movement, the Rev. Svend Rehling, has died at the age of 64.

FINLAND

New Finnish See to Be Established.

Negotiations between the State and the Lutheran National Church have taken place last month concerning the establishment of a new see by segregating the Capital of Helsinki (Helsingfors) from the diocese of Tampere (Tammerfors). Already several years ago the Church Synod expressed the wish that two new sees should be established, one in the Pohjanmaa (Österbotten) and one in Helsinki (Helsingfors), but in the first round only one was established, i.e. the diocese of Lapua (Lappo), in connection with the 800 years' anniversary of the Finnish Lutheran National Church in 1956.

Now it looks as if also a diocese of Helsinki (Helsingfors) will be established in the near future. The Bishop of Tampere (Tammerfors), Elis Gulin, headed a deputation to Prime Minister Fagerholm and the Minister of Finance, Simonen, and both were favourably disposed towards the plans. Present church premises in Helsinki (Helsingfors) might be used for offices and a Bishop's Residence so that the establishment of the new diocese should not involve any greater capital investment by the State. According to the Law, the State finances the bishops' offices from its own funds.

At the moment the diocese of Tampere (Tammerfors) counts 175.000 members including the city of Helsinki (Helsingfors) which in future should constitute an independent diocese with app. half a million inhabitants.

Anonymous Confession by Telephone in Helsinki (Helsingfors).

The need for personal confession and discussion of personal problems is much greater in our day than is usually believed. This is evident, among other things, from the extensive use made by people in Helsinki (Helsingfors) of the offer of anonymous conversations with a clergyman over the telephone which was recently published as an advertisement in the newspapers in the Finnish Capital. Dean Reimer Virkkunen inserted an advertisement in the papers running, "If you want to talk about your difficulties, please, call 62 17 02 between 5-6 o'clock p.m. on all week days." The response was such a large number of calls that the Dean, after a few weeks of trial, had to engage 12 laymen and -women from the congregation to assist him. It is not only religious questions which are discussed over the telephone, but also a number of serious human problems in matters of society, ethics, and economy.

If desired, the anonymity is maintained absolutely, but in many cases the anonymous calls are only the beginning of a more personal contact. In all cases, the duty of discretion on the part of the spiritual adviser is, of course, strictly observed.

Ecumenical Work Camp Helps in Rebuilding in Porkkala.

One of the many work camps of the Ecumenical Movement to be held during the summer under the auspices of the World Council of Churches will take place in the formerly Russian-occupied district of Porkkala in Finland where 26 young people from various countries and churches will assist in the rebuilding programme. Among other things, they are going to pull down a number of buildings not to be used in their present locations and move the materials to other places where they may be put into use.

Finnish Ecumenical Committee for Inter-Church Aid.

"Den Allmänkyrkliga Komittén" (the Ecumenical Council) in Finland has set up a Committee for Inter-Church Aid, under the chairmanship of the Rev. Ahti Auranen and with the Rev. Seppo Teinonen as secretary. The other members are the Rev. Johannes Suhola from the Orthodox Church and the Rev. Sergei Dubrovni from the Swedish Methodist Church in Finland.

Finnish Non-Commissioned Officers Assembled for "Spiritual Days".

For several years there has been a strong spiritual activity in the Finnish army. As an expression of this a number of "Spiritual Days" for non-commissioned officers has been conducted at Rühimäki at the beginning of this month. More than 100 men took part in the retreat under the leadership of the Chaplain-General, T. Laitinen. After short addresses of welcome by the local chief officer of the garrison and by representatives of the Non-Commissioned Officers' Association, of the local N.C.O.'s Club, and of the congregation in the town, the first evening began with a typical Finnish "seura", a devotional session led by four speakers. The next day the programme included no less than five Bible study classes which began and ended with hymn-singing. The deliverance of more or less interesting lectures was not wanted, but rather a deeper understanding of the Old and the New Testament. In the evening there was again a "seura" at which many of those present, besides the four main speakers, shared in leading the devotions. Finally, the participants met for Communion Service on the last day of the retreat at which the Chaplain-General preached and one of the army-chaplains gave the special Communion address.

NORWAY

The Easter Week Celebrations in Oslo Successful.

The many church arrangements in the Norwegian Capital during Easter Week, aiming at emphasizing the characteristics of Easter as being an ecclesiastical celebration and intended for both the residents of the city who were not able to leave town and for the many visiting tourists, were a great success.

The Festival was introduced by a performance of Handel's "Messias" in the Cathedral of Oslo on Palm Sunday, and during the Week there were no less than 43 different events arranged by the Lutheran National Church and several of the Free Churches. Among these events were 23 concerts and devotional music services in the churches. The culmination was decidedly an open-air service early on Easter morning in the public park of Torshovdalen. It had the form of being an ecumenical service, led by the Rev. Alex Johnson, which had drawn an audience of several thousand people. Also the concluding event of the Week, a big youth rally in the Town Hall courtyard on Easter Monday, was arranged by the National Church in co-operation with the Free Churches. There was also good attendance to a number of sightseeing tours, giving the sightseers an opportunity of visiting both medieaval and modern churches under the guidance of competent people; the Historical Museum exhibited examples of Norwegian medieaval ecclesiastical art; in Frogner Church a performance was given of Freda Collin's church play, a dramatical and musical adaptation of the Passion story; several cinemas showed religious films; and in the big tent of the Circus Berny the Salvation Army invited to big meetings which were also well attended.

The Committee in charge of the arrangements, headed by Dean Tord Godal, has reason to be satisfied with the result of this first Easter Week Festival in Oslo and plans are already being made for next year's Easter celebrations based on this year's experiences.

As in previous years there were also religious services all over Norway in sports hotels and other gathering places in the mountains where hundreds of thousands of Norwegians spent their Easter holidays.

"The Church in Norway Has the Best Press in the World".

The Norwegian Church Academy recently held a very successful contact conference between representatives of the Church and the press. The 40 members were almost equally divided among the two groups and a lively and interesting debate took place. Both sides were agreed upon wishing for an ecclesiastical information service which might further the contact between Church and press.

In his address at the conference the Assistant Editor Josef Norborg maintained that no other Church in the world has as good a press as the Norwegian Church. The main reason for this, he felt, was the efforts of the voluntary Christian organizations, especially those of the Christian Press Section, which have resulted in a good-will and understanding of the importance of religious news in the press. He appealed for more mutual trust and a more lively contact between the Church and the press.

Norwegian Missionary Council to Resign from the International Missionary Council If .....

In a statement in the daily paper "Vårt Land" in Oslo, the Secretary General Tormod Vågen says that the Norwegian Missionary Council will resign from the International Missionary Council if this is merged with the World Council of Churches. Although the Norwegian Missionary Council has not yet decided upon the final wording of its stand-point, as it will be announced at the meeting of the International Missionary Council in Ghana next winter, a provisional debate shows that opinions are mostly in favour of resigning the membership. The reason for this is that the "Mission" in Norway is a revivalist movement which should not be incorporated in the extensive framework of the World Council of Churches in which Orthodox, Coptian, and Protestant Christians stand shoulder by shoulder," the Secretary General states. "It would mean a spiritual loss to the Mission".

Protest Against the Atom Bomb Not Enough.

Occasioned by Albert Schweitzer's protest against the atom bomb experiments the Norwegian Christian daily "Vårt Land" has interviewed the Rector, Dr. Th. Boman, whose comments are noteworthy.

"As the advocator of charity in an otherwise cynical world," he says, "the Church must also strive at preventing the world in committing suicide, - but this is no specifically Christian aim, it is a humane action. On the other hand, we must be careful not to be fooled. Of what use is it, for instance, if the West ceases with atom bomb experiments if the countries in East do not do likewise?"

Pastor Boman warns against preachers taking advantage of the situation to scare people. When humanity is threatened by destruction and ordinary people are frightened out of their wits the Christians should, as it says in the First Epistle of St.Peter, be temperate and sober, watch unto prayer and do the deeds of charity and not deliver sensational lectures or write eschatological articles.

Sweeping Evangelical Drive in Southern Norway.

No less than 1.000 men and women had volunteered as inviters to the hitherto most sweeping Evangelical drive in Southern Norway, in the course of which 2.000 homes in Kristiansand and neighbouring parishes were visited and the people invited to attend the meetings and church services of the campaign during the month of April. 34 churches and meeting halls were in use simultaneously. The arrangements had been thoroughly prepared by a central committee and a number of local committees, just as the inviters over a long period had met for prayer meetings and larger instruction meetings. 30-40 speakers from other parts of Norway took part in the campaign.

Prominent Norwegian Churchmen Dissociate Themselves from the World Council of Churches.

At a meeting of the "Østlandske Prestkantring" (Clergymen's Association) one of the prominent leaders of the pietistically inclined Norwegian revivalist movement "Indre Mission" (Home Mission) has dissociated himself from collaboration with the World Council of Churches. He maintained that the Council from both a realistic and a practical point of view, wants to be an instrument of organizational unity on a false basis and that it actually behaves as being Church. Among other things, he pointed to the fact that the Council wants to work for "a common witness in words and deeds in the widest possible degree". He connected the World Council of Churches with both liberal theology and catholizing tendencies in modern Christianity.

"Indre Mission" is an independent movement within the Norwegian Lutheran National Church.

Another prominent leader of the voluntary Christian organizations, the Secretary General Tormod Vagen, has also attacked the ecumenical movement. This took place at a big meeting in Jaeren for members of these organizations. Here he said that "unification and unity have become slogans. The World State must have a World Church. The spirit of the present time here puts on Christian posture and uses the words of Jesus about unity as weapons, while unity, achieved transversely to the spirit and teachings of the Bible, will harm the growth of the Community of Saints."

The Secretary General voiced a certain scepticism towards the various new organizations which have developed within the Norwegian Church in recent years in connection with the bishops and the ecclesiastical office. He feared that they might create a cleavage in the Church community. About the Evangelical campaigns he said that it must be possible to find the way to a orderly and effective cooperation between the old voluntary organizations and the official National Church.

At the meeting, the old chief of "Indre Mission", Professor Ole Hallesby, called to action against heterodoxy and teachers of heterodoxy in the Norwegian Church with special reference to Bishop Kristian Schjelderup, Hamar. The Bishop does not share in the belief in eternal torment of those who reject the calling of God - as he himself has expressed it -, but he will pay deference to the authority of Jesus in the matter of perdition.

Death of the Rector Hans Høeg.

One of the outstanding personalities in Norwegian church life, the Rector Hans Høeg, has died, 76 years old. Rector Høeg was head of the Christian High School in Oslo for 30 years and President of the Norwegian Santal Mission for 20 years and held several other positions of trust as well.

SWEDEN

Re-Adjustment of Parishes About to Be Completed.

The Swedish Ministry of Church Affairs has proposed a re-adjustment of parishes in the Lutheran National Church. The proposal aims at a more reasonable distribution of livings in accordance with the shifts in density of population which has taken place since the last actual re-adjustment of living in 1910. The proposal has been greeted with approval by the Church press. The weekly "Vår Kyrka", however, expresses its misgivings in regard to the size of area considered "convenient" for rural parishes which has been increased from 1 to 1 1/2 square miles (from 100 to 150 square kilometres) and it is likewise felt to be too modest to plan for, for instance, only one church and five clergymen in a town of 30.000 inhabitants.

Parliament Rejects Amendment of Abortion Act.

Both Houses of the Swedish Parliament have rejected a Bill proposing an amendment of the legislation concerning induced abortion which was introduced with support from, among others, wide religious circles. The reason for the introduction of the Bill was threefold. Firstly, the clause in the present Act regarding the social-medical grounds for legally induced abortion was considered to be too vague ("when consideration of the living conditions of the woman and other circumstances make it probable that her spiritual and physical strength will be seriously reduced by the birth and care of the child"). Secondly, the stipulation that a legally induced abortion may take place at the concurrent recommendation of two physicians was regarded with great scepticism as it has been proved that a few physicians allow for a much wider interpretation of the stipulation than, for instance, the health authorities do. And, finally, the very serious complications connected with induced abortions, having been proved by investigations during recent years, were emphasized. The Swedish Medical Association and the medical faculties of the Universities of Lund and Uppsala recommended an amendment, while the medical faculty in Gothenburg and the health authorities could support it.

Proposal for Exemption From Taxation on Donations for Religious and Humanitarian Purposes Rejected.

A Bill proposing exemption from taxes on donations for humanitarian, religious, scientific, and other similar purposes has been rejected by the Swedish Parliament after a lively debate.

Swedish Quakers Opposed to Atom Weapons in Swedish Defence Forces.

In a communication to the Government the Society of Friends (the Quakers) in Sweden has protested against employing atom weapons in the Swedish defence forces. The best means for prevention of war is a considerably increased contribution towards the technically underdeveloped countries, the communication states. It concludes by pronouncing Sweden's proposal at the last General Assembly of the United Nations to cease with all experiments with hydrogen bombs for a certain length of time as being a step in the right direction.

First "Drive In"-Service in Sweden.

Ascension Day in Sweden is the Day of the Temperance Movement, and the Motorists' Temperance Society in Stockholm plans to mark the Day by arranging the first "drive in"-religious service on American lines in Sweden. The Skarpnäck aerodrome has been hired where a religious service will be conducted, probably led by the Methodist Bishop, Dr. Odd Hagen. There will also be various other entertainments and instructive exhibitions. Those attending the service and the other arrangements, which will take place on a large platform, will be able to remain sitting in their cars from where they may follow the proceedings through loudspeakers.

Stockholm's First Sports Church to Be Put up This Year.

Ever since the 1930-ies the Swedish Lutheran National Church and the athletes in the Capital have been on good terms with one another. Thus, there have been regular church services specially for athletes, first in the St. James' Church and later on at the sports centre of Lidagården, situated in a wooded area south of the city. There will now be erected a special athletes' church at Lidagården before the end of this year. It will be the first of its kind in Stockholm, but another one is already in existence in Sweden at Lövhult, near Nässjö.

The Joint Committee of the Free Churches Wants Greater Religious Representation in the Radio Programmes.

The Radio Section of the Joint Committee of the Free Churches in an appeal to the Chief Administrator of the State controlled Swedish National Broadcasting Service requests more space for religious programmes in the radio. It is particularly stressed that there is a wide discontent with the fact that there are no regular religious events on the Programme II, introduced last year, as was promised by the Administration. In this connection it is also pointed out that not enough attention had been paid to the special character of the days around either Christmas or Easter when the features of Programme II were being planned.

The Radio Section gives a number of suggestions for improvements. The most important one, it is felt, is the appointment of two assistants for the only clergyman in charge of the religious programmes at present. Secondly, it is suggested, among other things, that there should be specially arranged evening devotions on Programme II and

regular broadcasts of information and of devotions in the short-wave band, intended for foreign missionaries, sea-men, and other Swedish citizens living abroad. Finally, suggestion is made for a conference of representatives of the various religious communities at which the religious features in the radio might be discussed in more detail.

How Do Swedish Clergymen Feel About Women Colleagues?

At its meeting of representatives in Stockholm the Swedish Clergymen's Association has decided to carry out an investigation among its members concerning their views on the question of women church ministers.